

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /156 W

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P R 310800Z AUG 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1208

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NYC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: IRAQI-IRANIAN CONFLICT

REF: BAGHDAD 0568

1. ALTHOUGH USINT DID NOT RECEIVE NOTE GIVEN DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS CONDEMNING RECENT IRANIAN ACTIONS (REFTEL), I
GOT FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF GOI POSITION FROM FOREIGN MINISTER
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TAQA ON AUGUST 26 DURING MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECT.

2. TAQA SAID IRAN HAD CONCENTRATED 3 ARMORED DEVISIONS, 2 INFANTRY DIVISIONS AND 2 INFANTRY BRIGADES ALONG ENTIRE LENGTH OF BORDER. THESE TROOPS AS WELL AS IRANIAN AIR FORCE ARE ON FULL ALERT. HE NOTED THAT IRAN HAD NOT DENIED REPORTS OF ALERT BUT RELATED IT TO IRAQI MILITARY ACTIONS. THIS IS REDICULOUS, HE SAID, SINCE IRAQI FORCES ENGAGED IN INTERNAL ACTION. HE CONTINUED, WITH SOME FEELING, "IF SHAH OR ANYONE ELSE HAS IDEA OF NEW BANGLADESH IN IRAQ HE IS VERY MISTAKEN. BARZANI IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF KURDS, HE IS IN LAST DAYS, AND THOSE WHO ARE BETTING ON HIM ARE BETTING ON LOSING HORSE." TAQA SAID THAT ISTANBUL MEETING HAD BEEN RESULT OF IRAQ INITIATIVE AND WAS TO RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROCEEDING "NOT BADLY" WHEN IRANIAN TROOP CONCENTRATION BEGAN AND ATTACKS HARDENED. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT ALLEGED IRAQI INCURSIONS ON AUGUST 4 AND 8, TAQA SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO IRAQI INCURSIONS AND THAT IF THEY OCCURED AT ALL, THEY WERE LIKELY PROVOCATIVE ACTS BY KURDS. KURDS HAD, HE SAID, PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED IN THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY WEARING IRAQI ARMY UNIFORMS ON TURKISH BORDER.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY AMONG FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN BAGHDAD THAT IRAQIS ARE NOW SERIOUS ABOUT FULL RAPPROCHMENT WITH IRAN AS PREREQUISITE FOR RESOLVING KURDISH PROBLEM AND THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER TO IRAQ'S INTEREST TO ANTAGONIZE IRAN WITH BORDER INCURSIONS. VIEW IS ALMOST EQUALLY UNANIMOUS THAT GIVEN HIS COMPLETE DISTRUST OF BAAATH REGIME, SHAH IS NOT INTERESTED IN RAPPROCHMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST BARZANI FORCES TO KEEP BAAATH PREOCCUPIED. IRAQI EDITORIALISTS ARE ACCUSING NOT ONLY IRAN, BUT U.S. AND SOME ARAB REGIMES OF SAME MOTIVIES BECAUSE OF IRAQ'S DETERMINED STAND "IN THE VANGUARD OF THE ARAB REVOLUTIONARY POWERS OPPOSING CAPITALISM".

4. NO ONE CAN ASSURE IRANIANS OR OTHER ENEMIES OF BAAATH REGIME THAT IF KURDISH SETTLEMENT COULD BE FOUND, IRAQ WOULD BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY, FURTHER CURTAIL SOVIET PRESENCE, AND BECOME FORCE FOR REGIONAL STABILITY, HOWEVER THE CONVERSE

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SEEMS TO ME A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY; I.E. UNTIL KURDISH PROBLEM RESOLVED AND RAPPROCHMENT TAKES PLACE WITH IRAN, IRAQ WILL ENGAGE IN SUBVERSION AGAINST ITS REAL AND IMAGINED ENEMIES, RELY OF NECESSITY ON USSR FOR MILITARY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT, AND CONTINUE TO BE CENTER OF INSTABILITY IN THIS AREA. FROM BAGHDAD VANTAGE POINT, TIME IS RIPE FOR SERIOUS IRANIAN-IRAQ NEGOTIATIONS AND IRANIANS WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN POSITION TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS. IT IS,

IN MY VIEW, VERY MUCH IN U.S. INTERESTS THAT IRANIANS AT
LEAST MAKE THE EFFORT.
LOWRIE

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